



# "Niagara Rhodo"

Newsletter of the Niagara Chapter,  
Rhododendron Society of Canada,  
District 12, American Rhododendron Society  
March 31, 2016



**Our Purpose:** We are a non-profit organization whose aim is to promote, encourage and support interest in the genus *rhododendron*. Our goal is to encourage gardeners to grow and appreciate these plants, by providing educational meetings with knowledgeable speakers, access to topical publications and hosting joint meetings with other chapters'

## Content

1. Program for April 10, 2016 ?
2. Meeting of March 13, 2016. Richard Dionne's Talk
3. Steering Committee and Web-Site News
4. Request for Feedback on the New Web-Site format.
5. Annual Plant Sales news 7 Pre-order Form

## Word of Caution

By becoming a successful grower, the reader will be exposed to a contagion for which there is no cure. Once infected with an appreciation of rhododendrons and azaleas most gardeners spend a lifetime collecting these most beautiful of all plants.

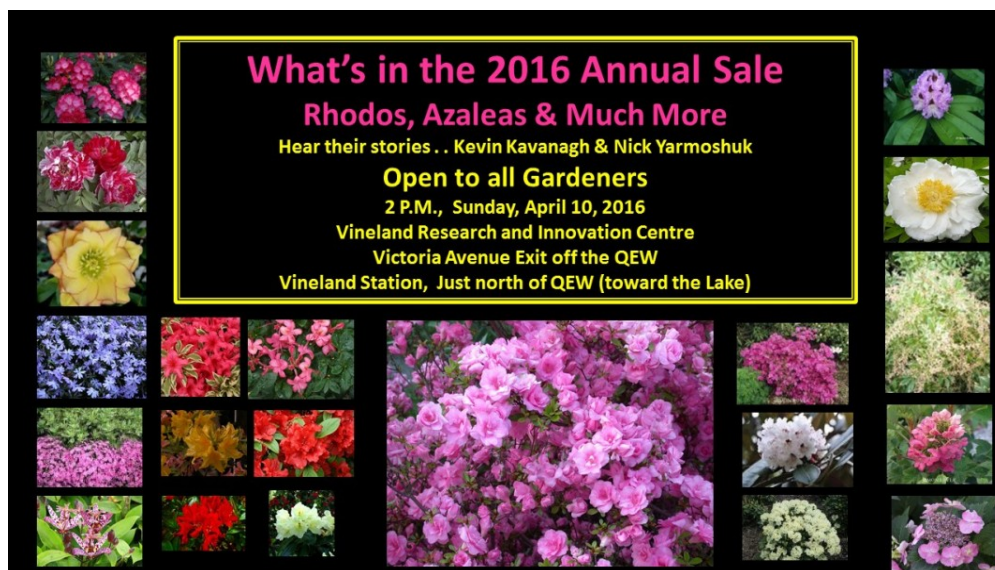
*H. Edward Reiley*

**Sunday, April 10, 2016 2 P.M.**

## Program

- 1400 **Sondra Meis** welcomes members & friends to the meeting.  
1410 Discussion about **Work in progress on updating the web site**  
1415 **News update on Brueckner Test Project:**  
Question and Answer period  
1430 **Slide show & Discussion: What's in the Plant Sale for April 30, 2016.**  
1535 **Raffle Draw & Koffee Klatch**  
1600~ Meeting Ends

**Members' Friends, All Gardeners and Friends of the Chapter are welcome.**



### What's in the 2016 Annual Sale

#### Rhodos, Azaleas & Much More

Hear their stories . . Kevin Kavanagh & Nick Yarmoshuk

**Open to all Gardeners**

2 P.M., Sunday, April 10, 2016

Vineland Research and Innovation Centre  
Victoria Avenue Exit off the QEW  
Vineland Station, Just north of QEW (toward the Lake)

## Events of Sunday, March 13, 2016

Members and friends who participated in Richard Dionne's discussion of the Montreal Botanical Garden's Leslie Hancock Rhododendron collection will remember the wonderful weather that allowed 54 people to be present to enjoy a dynamically informative talk. The "Cookie Brigade" of Joan Fooger, Sondra Meis, Gwen Simpson, Jean Wackett & Wanda Yarmoshuk provided the scrumptious collection of regular and gluten-free baked goodies. We thank them for preparing the taste treats that make early arrival a pleasant time to meet acquaintances and the Koffee Klatch a pleasant end to the talk.



The Montréal Botanical Garden is recognized as one of the world's greatest botanical gardens. It offers a colourful program of events, exhibitions and activities all year long.

With its collection of 22,000 plant species and cultivars, 10 exhibition greenhouses, Frédéric Back Tree Pavilion, and more than 20 thematic gardens spread out over 75 hectares, it's also a perfect place to enjoy fresh air and natural beauty all within a few minutes of a subway ride from downtown Montreal.

The Montréal Botanical Garden's plant collections were started in 1936 under the direction of the first curator, Henry Tauscher, and today, they comprise 11,000 species and more than 21,000 taxa. The Botanical Garden comprises 75 hectares. It includes 20 outdoor gardens, in which nearly 16,000 taxa are cultivated.

The Arboretum occupies almost half of the area of the Garden. It is home to nearly 1,000 species of trees and shrubs that grow in temperate climates, including one of the biggest collections of lilacs in North America. Its companion horticultural garden, the Shrub Garden, features a wide selection of ornamental shrubs, along with an impressive collection of rustic magnolias.

Discreetly nestled in the Arboretum and protected by a windbreak of trees, the Leslie Hancock Garden is home to a specialized collection of rhododendrons and other species in the Ericaceae family.

Starting in 1958, the Garden nursery had a section reserved for trials for different rhododendron and azalea cultivars.

Up to the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century, no one thought that rhododendrons could thrive in Montreal's harsh climate. It was thanks to horticulturist and rhododendron enthusiast Leslie Hancock (1892-1977) that people began growing them there. He prepared the plans for this garden and donated many specimens. The Heath Garden, opened in 1976, was renamed the Leslie Hancock Garden in 1986. It is the only collection at the Montreal Botanical Gardens named after an individual.



The Ericaceae Garden is at its best from early May to early July, but is at its most glorious in June. This verdant corner contains some one hundred species of Ericaceae, including wintergreen and Labrador tea, as well as hundreds of cultivars of rhododendrons, azaleas and heaths.

Officially, Montreal is show to be in USDA Climate Zone 5b. Observations by some knowledgeable horticulturalists suggest, that based on the large collection of Magnolias on the site it may well be that the Hancock collection enjoys a micro-climate which allows some less hardy cultivars to thrive despite the harsh winters. Below are 4 cultivars with which local gardeners may be familiar that grow well in the Hancock Collection in Montreal.



From top left clockwise: R. Yakushimanum; R. Pohola's Daughter; R. Hi-Lights; Unlabelled shrub.

## Other Activity before the General Meeting

### The Brueckner Steering Committee

Sunday's activities started long before the 2 P.M. scheduled start of Richard Dionne's talk. The Brueckner Steering Committee met at 10:30 A.M. to discuss detailed preparations to deal with the plants that will soon be ready for testing, time and method of delivery to the test sites, research protocols, methods of collecting, archiving, analyzing of data and dissemination of information and conclusions.

### The Web Site Development Committee

While the Steering Committee adjourned, the Web Site Committee started their deliberations on how to modernize the web site. The Board believes that a new,

simpler structure should simplify access to information. Removing redundant material will reduce memory requirements and ease regular updating. Costs will stay at current levels, Bell Canada will continue as service provider at under \$40 per month. Bell service is reliable, easy to work with when difficulties arise (only one problem has occurred since we started to work with them some 10 years ago and that (was quickly solved). The new version of the web site will run in parallel with the current site as development continues. This will allow Chapter members, to assess changes and react to them with advice. At some point in the next few months, the new site will be declared complete and the old structure will be discarded.

## Requesting Readers' Views Regarding the Web-Site

We ask readers to review the new structure of the web site to comment on (a) the appearance of the site; (b) the sites structure and appearance; (c)desired content: and (d) ease of locating desired content..

It is important that members have an opportunity to participate in building the web site. This is an opportunity for the committee to learn **what you would like to see, what you need to know and what you want to know** from the new site.

The new structure can be found in two ways . . .

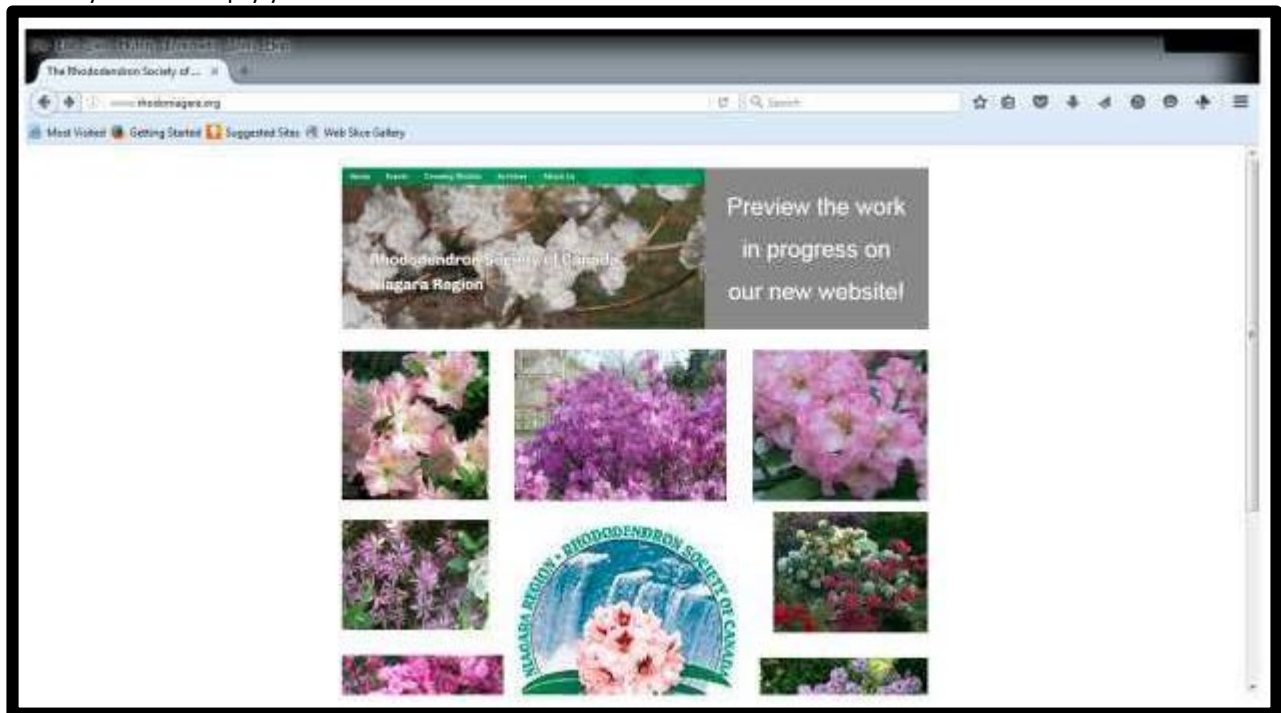
1. Go to old site <http://www.rhodoniagara.org>

There is a new banner at the top of the original page.

Click on the square in the top RH corner; a new front page will appear. See second figure below for how it will appear.

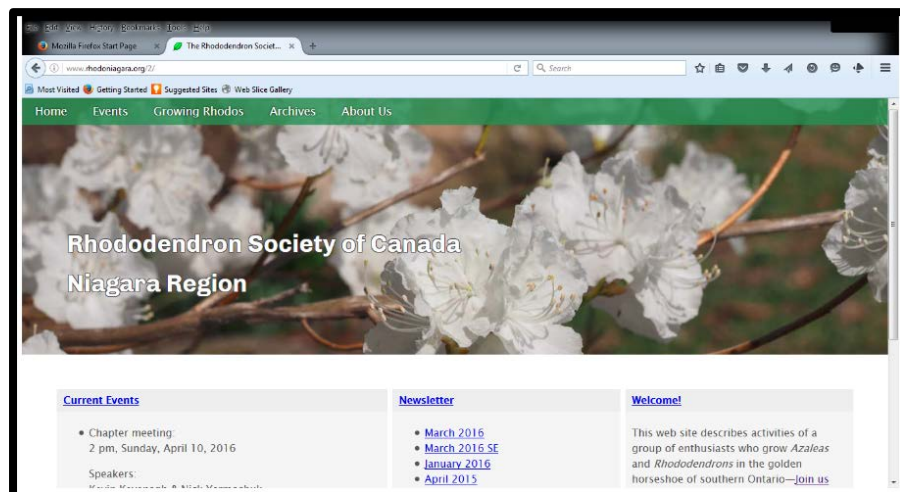
But . . .Click on the logo in the Center of the page and one is taken to the existing, old, site.

You may have to empty your Cache for this to work.



OR

2. Go to <http://www.rhodoniagara.org/2> The new site should appear.



For the next few months the new site's content will be updated as time permits. The List of Newsletters may require some additional to details.

At this time your opinions (as noted above) on the general appearance and structure of the pages are requested.

Also please let the Committee know what information you believe it is critical for the web site to contain.



The intent is to include as much history on “Rhodos in Niagara” as possible. Access to the entire collection of the Bulletins of the Rhododendron Society of Canada will be retained on the new site.

Currently the banners across the top of the first page are static and show only one flower. The final design intends to have a number of plant images each appear on the first page, one at a time, with flower colour changing every few seconds.

Please send your comments and suggestions to Christina Woodward [canadacaw@yahoo.ca](mailto:canadacaw@yahoo.ca) with a C.C. to Nick Yarmoshuk [rhodosrus@gmail.com](mailto:rhodosrus@gmail.com)

## Weather in the coming Growing Season

By Martin Taylor edited by Nick Yarmoshuk

On March 9 the Weather Network published their long-range forecast for spring 2016 and into early summer. The main question was how will the continuing El Niño impact the weather across Canada as we move into spring?

The pattern of the Jetstream in early March, with a strong dip to the south as shown in Figure 1, below, meant March came in like a lion in parts of Eastern Canada. In Ontario we had several bursts of Arctic air as winter moved towards spring while mild weather continued in BC and Alberta. Mild air from the southwest spread into much of Canada in the second week of March, reaching at least 16°C in Toronto. As a result, the soil has essentially thawed in Southern Ontario, with only sheltered pockets still frozen for the top few centimetres.



Figure 1



Figure 2

As we move into spring the deep bow in the Jetstream is expected to flatten out, bringing above-seasonal temperatures across most of Canada, similar to what we enjoyed for extended periods during the fall. BC temperatures, however, are expected to become closer to seasonal during late spring, along with periods of wet weather, due to a dip in the Jetstream near the west coast.

Despite weakening, El Niño will continue to influence the overall pattern of weather across Canada and we could well end up with one of the 10 warmest springs on record. Ice coverage of the Great Lakes is well below normal this year and far less than the last two, extreme, winters. The limited ice coverage will have no significant negative effect on the temperatures around the lakes. *(Editor's note: April 1 & 2 must be an April Fool's joke).*

In the West much of the region will be drier for much of spring as a persistent area of high pressure will push the main storm track further north into Alaska and the Yukon. Coastal areas of BC will remain wet though intermittent breaks expected in the pattern should result in the Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island ending up near normal for the season.

The main storm track in the East will be across the southern U.S. and into Atlantic Canada, leaving the Great Lakes region and Quebec drier than normal, especially in late spring. New Brunswick is expected to have near normal spring precipitation while the rest of Atlantic Canada will be above normal as frequent systems will bring rain and probably some late-season snow.

There should be enough moisture to start the growing season but it could be a concern if the same conditions continue into summer. The storm track away from the great Lakes should allow for some early season warmth in the days though the reduced cloud cover will keep the nights colder.



Figure 3



Figure 4

The Weather Network's initial predictions for the summer is shown below in Figure 5, though the full forecast will not be issued until May.



Figure 5

For much of the last three years, from mid-summer 2013, a persistent pattern of warm and dry weather across western Canada with cooler weather for most of eastern Canada held sway. This pattern began to break down towards the end of last summer and should continue to do so this year. While most of Canada will be warmer than normal this summer, the Great Lakes region, Quebec and the Maritimes will be the particular focus of summer heat. There is a definite potential for Atlantic storms to be considerably more active this coming season.

## The Annual Plant Sale: Plants Available, Prices & Pre-Orders

The annual sale will again be held at the Vineland Innovation and Research Centre, on Victoria Avenue, Vineland Station, starting at 9 A.M. Saturday, April 30, 2016 The centre is just off the QEW at the Victoria Avenue exit 57.

Pre-orders should be sent to Angela Calixto as shown on the accompanying preorder form. Pre-orders will be accepted at the meeting on Sunday, April 10 If you mail pre-orders please mail them as soon as possible, so they arrive

**Before April 20, 2016. .**

Pre-orders are available to any member in good standing on April 10 2016.

Pre-orders will be available for pick up at 9 A.M. on the morning of the sale. Please try to pick up your order before 10:30 A.M.



## Rhododendrons, Azaleas, Companion Shrubs & Perennials

Annual Plant - Saturday, April 30, 2016



Helen Curtis . . .EG Azalea



Herbert. . EG Azalea



Luteum Golden Comet Dec



Weston's Innocence Dec



Aglo. . . .Lepidote



Checkmate. . . . Lepidote



Karin Seleger. . Lepidote



Midnight Ruby ..Lepidote



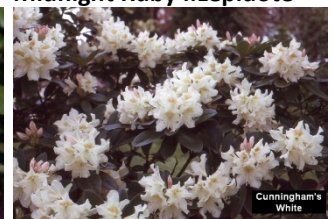
Patty Bee. . Lepidote



Cata. Boursault Elepidote



Grandiflorum



Cunningham's white



Edith Bosley



Fantastica



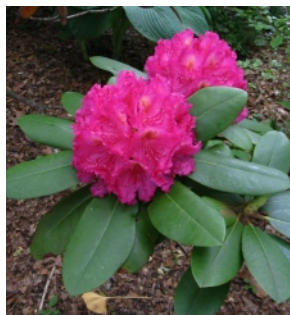
Ingrid Melquist



Kalinka



Lees Dark Purple  
Elepidote



Pearce's American Beauty



Percy Wiseman  
Elepidote



Pupureum Elegans



Rimini Elepidote



Tapestry Elepidote



Sugar Puff

**Some Companion  
Plants to be  
Available at the  
sale. Others not  
shown. These may  
be pre-ordered as  
well.**

*Continued . . . . .*





**Clethra Ruby Spice**



**Clethra Hummingbird**



**fothergilla Mount Airy**



**Hydrangea Wedding Gown**



**Hydrangea Pink Winky**



**Hydrangea Munchkin**



**Pieris Little Heath**



**Pieris Katsura**



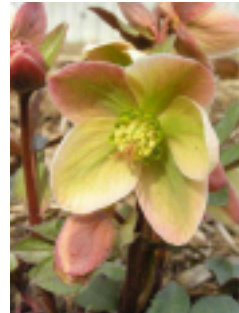
**Athyrum niponicom pictum**



**Astilbe Chinensis Pumila**



**Carex Evergold**



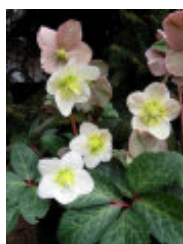
**Helleborus Ivory Prince**



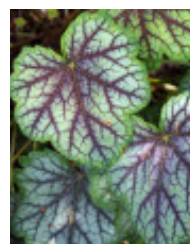
**Helleborus Merlin**



**Helleborus Sparkling Diamond**



**Helleborus Spring Party**



**Heuchera Green Spice**

## **Please Note--- Plant Sizes & Photographs**

Photos of all rhododendrons and azaleas in this year's sale and are shown above. Detailed descriptions will be available on the web site April 12.

Not all photos are available for the companion plants that will be available at the sale. However, full descriptions of each available cultivar will be accurately described by Kevin Kavanagh at the meeting on Sunday, April 10.

**Rhododendrons & Azaleas** Most are 2 gallon pot size. Larger sizes are in 3 gallon pots

**Shrubs** Some will be in 2 gallon pots others may be in 3 gallon pots

**Perennials** All perennials will be in 1 gallon pots.





# "Niagara" 2016 Annual Plant Sale

## Members' Pre-Order form

Name: .....

Address: .....

.....Postal Code .....

Telephone: ..... Email: .....

\* These prices per plant apply to **Memberships paid on or before April 10, 2016**

\* Prices include members' 10% discount and all applicable taxes. Details at:

[http://www.rhodoniagara.org/2016\\_sale/Plant\\_descriptions\\_2016\\_Annual\\_Sale.pdf](http://www.rhodoniagara.org/2016_sale/Plant_descriptions_2016_Annual_Sale.pdf)

Plant	Members' Price	Qty.	Plant	Members' Price	Qty.
<b>EVERGREEN AZALEAS</b>			<b>WOODY COMPANIONS &amp; PERRENTIALS</b>		
Helen Curtis	\$20		Clethra alnifolia "Ruby Spice"	\$18	
Herbert	\$22		Clethra ainifolia "Hummingbird"	\$18	
<b>DECIDUOUS AZALEAS</b>			Fothergilla major "Mount Airy"	\$23	
Luteum Golden Comet	\$24		Hydrangea "Wedding Gown"	\$24	
Weston'e Innocence	\$22		Hydrangea "Pinky Winky"	\$24	
<b>SMALL LEAF RHODOS</b>			Hydrangea Munchkin	\$24	
Aglo	\$24		Pieris japonica Katsura	\$25	
Checkmate	\$24		Pieris japonica "Little Heath"	\$25	
Karin Seleger	\$24		Athyrium niponicum var. pictum	\$10	
Midnight Ruby 3 gal 40 cm	\$32		Athyriumx Ghost	\$11	
Patty Bee	\$24		Astilbe Chinensis Pumila	\$10	
Sugar Puff	\$24		Astilbe japonica "Montgomery"	\$10	
<b>LARGE LEAF RHODOS</b>			Carex oshemensis "Evergold"	\$10	
Blue Peter 3 gal 40 cm	\$32		Helleborus Spring Party	\$20	
Catawbiense Boursault	\$25		Helleborus Merlin	\$17	
Catawbiense Grandflora	\$25		Helleborus Ivory prince	\$17	
Cunningham's White	\$25		Helleborus "Sparkling Diamond"	\$20	
Edith Bosley	\$25		Heuchera Purple Palace	\$ 8	
Fantastica	\$25		Heuchera x Fire Alarm	\$14	
Ingrid Melquist	\$25		Heuchera x Green Space	\$12	
Kalinka	\$25		Heuchera x Peach Flambe	\$14	
Lee's Dark Purple	\$25		Iris ensata "Lion King"	\$ 9	
Pearce's American Beauty	\$25		Phlox subulata Emerald Blue	\$ 9	
Purpureum Elegans	\$25		Phlox subulata Emerald Pink	\$ 9	
Rimini	\$25		Phlox subulata Nice N White	\$ 9	
Tapestry	\$25		Tricyrtis hirta Miyazaki hybrids	\$ 9	
			Trollis x cultorum "New moon"	\$ 9	

Total number of plants ordered # ..... Please make Cheque (payable to **ARS - Niagara**) \$ .....

\* **Pre - Orders close April 20, 2016**

\* **Pickup** between 9am and 11 am at the Plant Sale, Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup>,

**Mail this form and Cheque to:** Angela Calixto  
2415 North Service Rd., Jordan Station L0R 1S0

**For Information concerning orders write to:**  
angelacalixto@yahoo.com or Call: 289-407-3012